

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 SSO-00 /122 W
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P 041418Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3753

INFO USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1973

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, ZA, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF LOS SECOND NEW YORK SESSION

SUMMARY: IN ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER, INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTTEL PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS LOS MATTERS WITH THOSE MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED AT GRZ FOREIGN MINISTRY. ZAMBIANS APPEAR GENUINELY INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH US ON LOS BUT ARE TROUBLED BY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO STATES OVER TERRITORIAL SEA AND EXPLOITATION OF SEABEDS. IT APPARENT THAT ZAMBIANS ARE SENSITIZED, AT LEAST ON LOS MATTERS, TO DANGER THAT THEIR INTERESTS MAY BE SACRIFICED BY BLINDLY TAKING POSITIONS BASED ON NON-ALIGNED SOLIDARITY. THIS OFFERS POTENTIAL FOR PRODUCTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND ZAMBIAN DELEGATES AT LOS SECOND NEW YORK SESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MWALE IS STILL IN THE US, AND MINISTRY HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED OF EXPECTED DATE OF RETURN TO LUSAKA. PROSPECTS NOW ARE HE WILL RETURN TO LUSAKA ONLY BRIEFLY
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PRIOR TO TRAVELING TO COLOMBO. WE HAVE DELIVERED TO THE MINISTRY

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE FOR MWALE'S URGENT ATTENTION ON HIS RETURN AND HAVE REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE MINISTER TO MAKE ORAL POINTS GIVEN REFTEL.

2. IN ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER, WE MET WITH PERMANENT SECRETARY OF FOREIGN MINISTRY NGONDA ON AUGUST 4 AND MINISTRY'S LOS EXPERT MHLANGA AND DISCUSSED WITH THEM POINTS RAISED BY THE SECRETARY, INFORMING THEM THAT SECRETARY IS WRITING PERSONALLY TO FOREIGN MINISTER ON LOS SECOND NEW YORK SESSION.

3. PRESENTATION OF HOW SERIOUSLY USG TOOK LOS LED TO DISCUSSION OF PROSPECTS FOR NEW YORK SESSION. MHLANGA, WHO WILL REPRESENT GRZ AT LOS IN NEW YORK, DID MOST OF THE TALKING ON ZAMBIAN SIDE. HE SAID HE HAD WORKED PROFITABLY WITH US DELEGATES AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS AND LOOKED FORWARD TO DOING SO AGAIN. HE REGRETTED US DECISION TO ADVANCE CLAIM TO 200 MILE FISHERIES ZONE, SAYING THIS CREATED AN AREA OF DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND ZAMBIA WHERE THERE HAD BEEN AGREEMENTS IN THE PAST. ZAMBIA HAD CONSISTENTLY STOOD FOR 12 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND WAS SORRY TO SEE THIS POSITION UNDERMINED BY CLAIMS TO 200 MILES. WE POINTED OUT THAT US LEGISLATION ON 200 MILE FISHERIES ZONE WOULD NOT GO INTO EFFECT UNTIL MARCH 1977 AND IT MIGHT BE MODIFIED IF LOS SESSIONS PRODUCED AGREEMENT LIMITING SUCH CLAIMS. MHLANGA ALSO NOTED THAT POTENTIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US AND ZAMBIA EXISTED OVER EXPLOITATION OF SEABED. ZAMBIA STOOD FOR EXPLOITATION BY AN INTERNATIONAL AGENCY AND US SOUGHT REGIME WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR OPEN ACCESS TO SEABEDS. NGONDA AND MHLANGA AT FIRST AGREED WITH OBSERVATION THAT IT WOULD BE IN THEIR COUNTRY'S INTEREST TO HAVE SOME TYPE OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT COVERING EXPLOITATION OF SEABEDS, THEN HEDGED BY INDICATING AGREEMENT WHICH DID NOT PROVIDE EQUITABLE TREATMENT FOR ALL MIGHT BE WORSE THAN NO AGREEMENT.

4. IN INTERESTING ASIDE, MHLANGA REMARKED THAT THE "VEIL OF SOLIDARITY HAS NOW BEEN LIFTED SO AS TO PERMIT COUNTRIES TO SEE THE DANGERS THAT LURKED BEHIND." HE ADDED THAT THOSE ATTENDING CONFERENCE ARE NOW AWARE OF TRUE FACTS AND MOTIVATIONS GOVERNING DIFFERENT COUNTRIES' POSITIONS AT LOS AND WOULD NOT BE MISLED.

COMMENT: BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PROFITABLE FOR US DELEGATION TO
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CULTIVATE MHLANGA. HE IS THE ONLY MAN IN ZAMBIA REALLY FAMILIAR WITH LOS, AND HIS RECOMMENDATIONS WILL CARRY WEIGHT. WE SUSPECT FROM HIS REMARKS THAT IT IS NOT GOING TO BE EASY FOR HIS NON-ALIGNED COLLEAGUES TO GET HIM TO SUPPORT A POSITION WHICH HE SEES AS NOT BEING IN INTEREST OF ZAMBIA. ON OUR SIDE WE WILL FOLLOW UP AS NEEDED WITH PERMANENT SECRETARY, WHO, IN ABSENCE OF ANYONE ELSE AT ALL KNOWLEDGEABLE, WILL BE BACK STOPPING MHLANGA AT THE MINISTRY.
CLINGERMAN

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